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More Employment Gloom

Kia ora tatou,

Recently released figures from Stats NZ made for difficult reading with New Zealand's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate sitting at 5.2% in the June 2025 quarter, which is the highest it has been since 2020.

It compares with 5.1% in the March 2025 quarter and 4.7% in the June 2024 quarter and it was slightly better than the 5.3% expected by most economists however, it was in line with forecasts from the Reserve Bank Of New Zealand.

Of even more significance to members is that the unemployment rate in the Auckland region increased 1.5% annually, from 4.6% in the June 2024 quarter to 6.1% in the June 2025 quarter. This equates to an annual increase of 15,000 in the number of unemployed people in Auckland. These figures are just another indicator, if one were needed, that many businesses are still doing it tough as they reduce staffing numbers, delay filling positions and/or struggle with a lack of consumer spending and cashflow.

As I mentioned in a recent article, the hope for sustained, positive economic growth this year which was integral in most narratives around economic predictions in 2024, hasn't materialised, so I sincerely hope that all our members are able to ride out this perfect economic storm and enjoy better times ahead whenever they arrive – hopefully sooner rather than later.

Ngā mihi mahana,

Kevin O'Leary

General Manager, Business North Harbour

Upcoming Workshops & Events



BA5: Networking Event proudly hosted by RSM NZ Auckland North
Thursday, 4th Sep 25, 5.00pm

Join us for an Evening of Ideas, Insight & Connection at RSM NZ Auckland North!
When RSM throws an event, it isn't just another after-work drink—it's a springboard for fresh thinking and some fun - an After 5 that's social and valuable.
Connect with the friendly RSM NZ team, learn how their accounting and tax specialists help local businesses thrive, and widen your network with professionals from across the North Shore.

Bite-sized spotlights—insider know-how, minus the jargon—revealing some clever financial moves our clients are using right now to fuel growth (ideas you can put to work the very next day).

[Register Here](#)



Business Lunch: An Afternoon with Sir John Kirwan
3rd October 2025, 12.00pm

Join us for an unforgettable Business Lunch with legendary All Black and mental health advocate Sir John Kirwan (JK).

Sir John Kirwan (JK) is a rugby legend turned mental health advocate. At the height of his All Blacks career, he was silently battling anxiety and depression—an experience he bravely shared, sparking a nationwide conversation on mental wellbeing.

In this inspiring Business Lunch, JK will share powerful stories, practical insights, and his mission through the Sir John Kirwan Foundation, Mitey, and Groov. With warmth, humour, and honesty, he'll leave you motivated to lead yourself and others through life's challenges.

[Register Here](#)





Massey Business School's Actionable Insights Series presents
Thursday, 11th September 2025, 5:30 - 7pm

New Zealand Prosperity Live is a groundbreaking new tracker of national wellbeing and business health, blending AI and real-time data from multiple sources. This event introduces its first results—revealing strengths and possibilities in education, housing, income, and more. Discover how business, government, and community leaders can use these insights to create a lasting impact.

[Register Here](#)

Past Events



Learning Lab: Natalie Tolhopf - The Sticky Business Strategy

You're Not Alone in Business – And You Were Never Meant to Be
We were thrilled to welcome Natalie Tolhopf to Business North Harbour for a high-impact Learning Lab on sales strategy, mindset, and building a business that lasts. From pricing with purpose to letting go of perfection, Natalie shared practical tools and powerful reminders to help you grow with clarity and confidence. The true highlight? Honest conversations, shared challenges, and the reassurance that you're not the only one figuring it out. Don't miss our next event—learn from experts, connect with peers, and be part of a thriving local business community.



Testimonials from attendees

"This workshop gave me a clear understanding on how to use a Defib and better knowledge of when to start CPR. Everything learnt was definitely life saving."

"Concise, accurate course giving all the necessary details without the fluff."

MFAT Global Economic Report



July 2025 saw global food prices hit a 2-year high, driven by meat and edible oils. Maersk raised profit forecasts on strong container demand. Major tariff shifts hit Brazil, India, and Malaysia, while South Korea boosted AI incentives. BP reported a record oil & gas find in Brazil. For more information, [click here](#).

Fundraising For Waitākere Hospital's New ICU & Ward



Join Well Foundation's fundraising event at Gibbs Farm on Friday, 26th September, from 10am to 2pm. Explore the stunning 400-hectare open-air sculpture park, located on the Kaipara Harbour and rarely open to the public. Funds raised will support Manaaki Hōhonu, the new ICU and 30-bed ward under construction at Waitākere Hospital, enhancing the environment for patients, whānau, visitors, and staff. Well Foundation is the official charity for North Shore and Waitākere Hospitals, funding vital healthcare projects through generous community support. Don't miss this unique opportunity —[buy tickets and learn more](#) to help make a meaningful difference.

Food Waste Collections



The BNH Food Waste Collection programme started in March 2018. Through our collaboration with [Upper Harbour Local Board](#), we estimate that we are currently diverting approx. 32.2 tonnes of food waste from landfill every year which also calculates to more than 85 tonnes of diverted CO2 emissions too.

BNH welcomes registrations from any and all local businesses, especially from the catering, hospitality, and food preparation sectors.

Sign up [here](#) to claim your FREE kitchen bin and your first six collections FREE!

Chamber Membership Offer For BNH Members



Join us today

0800 543 543 www.aucklandchamber.co.nz

As a Business North Harbour member, you're eligible for Auckland Business Chamber membership at a special rate of **\$50+gst per year**. Chamber membership gives you access to a range of benefits, including:

- Savings through Alliance Partners – Get discounts with 2degrees, OfficeMax, Z Business, Bunnings, Noel Leeming, Yoogo Fleet, Clarity Insurance Brokers, Reliance Utilities and more. Full details here: [Alliance Partners](#)
- Exclusive member-to-member offers
- Chamber Toolkit – Access templates, guides, and business resources online, plus talk to a Business Advisor by calling 0800 543 543
- Free 30-minute consultation with one of our Growth Advisors to discuss business growth or innovation
- Promotional opportunities – Raise your profile through initiatives such as Member Feature Friday (a complimentary social media promo), and inclusion in the online Business Chamber directory
- Free Member Evenings and one BA5 networking event per year
- Member pricing on Chamber events throughout the year
- Discounts on international trade documentation

To take advantage of this offer, please click [here](#), enter coupon code: **BusinessNorthHarbour** to access your \$50+gst membership.

Latest Information From Business.govt.nz



The [business.govt.nz](#) and other Government sources provide the latest information for businesses.

If you have any questions or need support please contact the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)'s phone line for small businesses: Freephone **0800 424 946**

Thank you to our 2025 - 2026 PLATINUM PARTNERS

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KOROWAI TAKITINI

Thank you to our 2025 - 2026 GOLD PARTNERS

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CONTACT: 09 968 2222 WEBSITE: www.businessnh.org.nz

EMAIL: admin@businessnh.org.nz OFFICE: Level 1, Unit 2, 322 Rosedale Road, Rosedale

POSTAL: PO Box 303126, North Harbour